

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 20, 2005 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 16 and 33 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 16-18 and 33 are currently pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

It is noted that the status of pending, dependent claims 17 and 18 do not appear in the Office Action of December 20, 2005. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the pendency of claim 17 and 18 in the next communication.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 16 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson (U.S. Patent 6,302,475 B1) in view of Maieli et al. (U.S. Patent 5,673,,962 A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Each of claims 16 and 33 recites a privacy enclosure including a stowable enclosure having a rigid outer wall. The rigid outer wall expands from a stowed configuration to an expanded configuration in a first direction and then a second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

Applicants respectfully submit that Anderson does not teach or suggest a vehicle having an enclosure with a rigid outer wall structure that expands in a first direction and then a second perpendicular direction. Rather, Anderson teaches a trailer 10 having a horizontally movable pod 62. The movable pod 62 expands horizontally in only a first direction. The pod 62 does not also expand in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction. The trailer 10 of Anderson also includes a movable upper segment 18. The upper segment 18 expands vertically in only a first direction. The upper segment 18 does not also expand in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

As a basis for rejection, the Examiner utilizes a first wall structure (i.e. the upper segment 18) for expansion in the first direction, and utilizes a second wall structure (i.e. the pod 62) for expansion in the second perpendicular direction. Each of claims 16 and 33 make it clear that the claimed enclosure includes "a rigid outer wall structure" (singular) that

expands in both the first direction and the second perpendicular direction. Neither the upper segment 18 nor the pod 62 of Anderson expands in both the first direction and the second perpendicular direction, as required by claims 16 and 33. It is therefore respectfully submit that Anderson does not teach or suggest each and every structural limitation recited in claims 16 and 33. It is further submitted that Maieli does not make up for the deficiencies of Anderson. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 16 and 33 are patentable.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 16-18 and 33) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



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